

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 to 22 remain pending in the application, with claims 1, 12 and 19 to 22 being the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted on March 24, 2003, with Applicants' attorney. During that interview, possible amendments to the claims were discussed. Ultimately, the Examiner agreed that amending the claims to clarify that a calculated measure of statistical significance is obtained and used would distinguish the present invention from the applied art, although an updated search would be performed.

Based on the Examiner's assurance, the claims have been amended above as agreed during the telephonic interview. Accordingly, all claims in the application clearly are allowable over the applied art, and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also stated that a "p value" can correspond to any value. In response, Applicants note that the term p value has a well-known meaning in statistical analysis, i.e., the probability that a variant would assume a value greater than or equal the observed value strictly by chance. See, e.g., the Webpage printout attached as Exhibit A to this Response.

Serial No.: 09/615,026

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

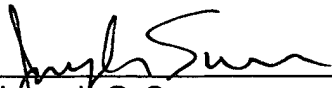
If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that have not been accounted for in this paper or the accompanying papers, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 13-3735. If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is required for the filing of this paper and is not accounted for in this paper or the accompanying papers, such an extension is requested and the fee (or any underpayment thereof) should also be charged to our Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this page is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

**MITCHELL, SILBERBERG & KNUPP LLP**

Dated: May 2, 2003

By

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph G. Swan  
Registration No. 41,338

**MITCHELL, SILBERBERG & KNUPP LLP**  
11377 West Olympic Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90064  
Telephone: (310) 312-2000  
Facsimile: (310) 312-3100